

Message Text

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AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PL, GW
SUBJECT: RESTRAINED POLISH PRESS TREATMENT OF WYSZYNSKI'S
FRG VISIT

1. SUMMARY. COVERAGE OF THE SEPTEMBER 20-24 VISIT TO THE
FRG BY CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI AND A DELEGATION OF THE POLISH
EPISCOPATE WAS LACONIC AND SKETCHY IN MOST OF THE OFFICIAL
PRESS. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CATHOLIC DAILY
SLOWO POWSZECHNE LAVISHED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION ON THE
TRIP. ALL OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS STRESSED THE ROLE OF
CARDINAL STEFAN WYSZYNSKI TO THE VIRTUAL EXCLUSION
OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. SLOWO
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POWSZECHNE TOOK A FEW SWIPES AT THE GERMAN EPISCO-
PATE AND WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS WHILE HIGHLIGHTING
WYSZYNSKI'S COMMENTS ON PEACE AND DISARMAMENT. END
SUMMARY.

2. MOST POLISH DAILIES RAN THREE SHORT POLISH NEWS
AGENCY (PAP) PIECES ON THE VISIT OF THE DELEGATION

OF THE POLISH EPISCOPATE TO THE FRG. A PAP STORY CARRIED BY SEPTEMBER 21 NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATION FROM WARSAW AND ITS ARRIVAL IN FRANKFURT. THE ARTICLE DID NOT SPECIFY THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLISH DELEGATION, OTHER THAN CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI, BUT DID MENTION THE POLISH AND FRG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE WARSAW DEPARTURE CEREMONIES (POLISH VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOZEF CZYREK, VICE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN CHARGE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ALEKSANDER MERKER, AND FRG CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WALTER KOENIG. THE PRESENCE OF POLISH AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG, JAN CHYLINSKI, AT THE DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL IN FRANKFURT WAS ALSO NOTED. A SEPTEMBER 25 PAP STORY DEVOTED A PARAGRAPH TO CHYLINSKI'S PARTICIPATION IN A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT DACHAU.

3. POLISH READERS OF MOST NEWSPAPERS FIRST READ ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND ITINERARY OF THE VISIT IN THE PAP WRAP-UP DISPATCH PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 26. THIS SIX-PARAGRAPH ARTICLE LISTED THE CITIES THE EPISCOPATE DELEGATION VISITED, NOTED THAT THE POLISH CHURCHMEN CAME TO THE FRG TO "TAKE PART IN CELEBRATIONS OF A CHURCH CHARACTER", REPEATED THE STORY OF THE DACHAU WREATH-LAYING, REPORTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT WYSZYNSKI AND CARDINAL HOFFNER HAD GIVEN STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, RECOUNTED WYSZYNSKI'S MEETING WITH CHYLINSKI AT THE POLISH EMBASSY IN COLOGNE, AND REPORTED THE DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL CEREMONIES, THIS TIME INCLUDING CARDINAL HOFFNER IN THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS MENTIONED IN THE SEPTEMBER 21 STORY.

4. COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS MORE ELABORATE IN SLOWO Powszechnie. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JERZY NOWAKOWSKI FILED STORIES EVERY DAY. ALSO SLOWO LISTED ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EPISCOPATE DELEGATION SEVERAL TIMES. HOWEVER, AS IN THE PAP ACCOUNT, CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI WAS PRESENTED AS THE DOMINANT FIGURE OF THE DELEGATION IN THE PAPER'S VERSION OF EVENTS.

5. MOST OF NOWAKOWSKI'S REPORTAGE CONCENTRATED ON THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES IN WHICH THE DELEGATION TOOK PART. HOWEVER, HE MADE A COUPLE OF POLITICAL POINTS WORTH NOTING: (A) NOWAKOWSKI FAVORABLY CONTRASTED WYSZYNSKI'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WITH SOME STATEMENTS

MADE BY HIS GERMAN COUNTERPARTS: "CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI," HE WROTE ON SEPTEMBER 25, "AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE RELIGIOUS AND CHURCH CHARACTER OF HIS RETURN VISIT TO THE FRG." HOWEVER, NOWAKOWSKI SAID, "SOME WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS FEEL DISAPPOINTED THAT THE VIST OF THE PRIMATE OF POLAND BEARS A PREEMINENTLY RELIGIOUS CHARACTER. ESPECIALLY SINCE IN SEVERAL OF THE STATEMENTS OF WEST GERMAN BISHOPS, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DETECT ACCENTS STRAYING BEYOND THE BILATERAL RELATIONS OF BOTH EPISCOPATES. IT IS DIFFICULT TO THINK OTHERWISE WHEN THE BISHOP OF FULDA TALKS ALLUSIVELY 'ABOUT THE IRON CURTAIN', OR WHEN REFERENCES TO 'CHRISTIAN EUROPE' ARE INTERPRETED BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPIRIT OF IMMEDIATE POLITICAL NEEDS." (B) NOWAKOWSKI SPECULATED THAT EFFORTS TO WIN CONSERVATIVE VOTES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN HESSE INPIRED HOLGER BOERNER, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HESSIAN PREMIER, TO INCLUDE A COMMENT" ABOUT THE RESETTLING OF GERMANS FROM POLISH WESTERN TERRITORIES" IN THE

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SAME BREATH WITH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE CRIMES
PREPETRATED BY HITLER AGAINST POLAND. "THAT ACCENT",
NOWAKOWSKI SAID, "WAS A DISCORD."

6. SLOWO POWSZECHNE PRINTED EXCERPTS FROM THE VARIOUS
SERMONS DELIVERED BY WYSZYNSKI DURING HIS STAY IN
THE FRG UNDERLINING HIS OPPOSITION TO ARMAMENTS
AND ENCOURAGING POLES IN THE FRG TO "PRESERVE NA-
TIONAL PRIDE." THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED WITHOUT
ELABORATION THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE POLISH AND
GERMAN EPISCOPATES TO REGULATE THE PASTORAL WORK
PERFORMED BY POLISH PRIESTS IN THE FRG. (COMMENT:
POLAND HAS EXPORTED PRIESTS TO THE FRG FOR YEARS.
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FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE POLISH EPISCOPATE,
MOST OF THESE PRIESTS ARE ON LOAN AND THEREFORE
REMAIN SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION. THE EPISCOPATE
FROM TIME TO TIME HAS EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER
CASES IN WHICH POLISH PREISTS STAYED IN THE FRG
AGAINST ITS WILL. END COMMENT.)

7. COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT,
IN SLOWO POWSZECHNE AS WELL AS THE OFFICIAL
"SECULAR" PRESS, WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE REGIME'S
PUBLIC POSTURE TOWARD THE CHRUCH FOR NEARLY A YEAR.
AS A RESULT OF THE PARTIAL THAW IN CHRUCH-STATE
RELATIONS WHICH SET IN SHORTLY BEFORE THE GIEREK-
WYSZYNSKI MEETING IN OCTOBER 1977, NEWS ABOUT
ACTIVITIES OF THE CARDINAL, OCCASIONALLY BILLED AS
THE PRIMATE OF POLAND, HAS APPEARED FROM TIME TO
TIME IN THE SECULAR PRESS. AN EVENT OF THE
MAGNITUDE OF THE VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF THE POLISH
EPISCOPATE TO THE FRG COULD NOT BE IGNORED. COVERAGE
HOWEVER, WAS RESTRAINED AND SKEWED IN
SUCH A WYA (E.G., THROUGH EMPHASIS ON AMBASSADOR
CHYLINSKI'S INVOLVEMENT) AS TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT
THE VISIT HAD SOME "OFFICIAL" COLORATION. (THIS
IMPRESSION WAS, OF COURSE, REINFORCED BY THE
PRESENCE OF GOP OFFICIALS AT THE WARSAW AIRPORT
WHEN THE DELEGATION DEPARTED AND RETURNED.) END
COMMENT.

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